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SECURITY INFORMATION

H NO. MGL-A-9557

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TO : Chief, Foreign Division M

DATE: 7 December 1951

FROM : Chief of Station, Karlsruhe *488*

SUBJECT: GENERAL— Operational

SPECIFIC— Conference at G-2, USFA, re: ZIPPER-USAGE Sov/Zone Austria  
OB Coverage

REF: MAV-9258 - t HER

1. On 5 December 1951 *(C)* and *(C)* travelled to Salzburg, Austria to attend a conference convened by G-2, USFA. Present were Lt. Col. Jack Dobson, Major Hartell, Mr. Walton and Lt. Col. Green from G-2 USFA, Operations and Analysis Sections. Clarence S. Foley represented GRUESOME and *(C)* represented SOB.

2. At the outset Col. Dobson stated that the purposes of the meeting were:

A. Primarily

(1) To coordinate those operations of the agencies represented which were concerned with the collection of Soviet Zone Austria OB information.

(2) To examine and eliminate overlappings where known and perhaps cause some shifts in the various collection efforts for the purpose of gaining better and broader coverage.

B. Secondarily

To discuss other operations thru Austria with a view to effecting possible coordination and eliminating the crossing of lines.

3. The discussion about OB collection consisted of two parts. One part dealt with ZIPPER's efforts, which was the only discussion participated in by USFA's analysis representatives. The other part dealt with USAGE's OB collection.

4. With reference to ZIPPER's collection effort which is disseminated to USFA via copies of MGL reports, USFA analysis representatives stated:

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a. Of the total ZIPPER Austria Sov/Zone OB coverage (Monthly average - 16 reports) approximately 50% represented coverage where USFA felt they were already well-informed. However, although this represented over-lapping generally, on the other hand it was confirmatory in some respects. Nevertheless it was in these instances that USFA felt some shifting of effort would be desirable to secure broader and better coverage.

b. The other 50% represented augmenting information to USFA. Particular stress was laid on the reports which were based on documents procured and forwarded to Washington. USFA regards these as the best reports of their type that they have seen. (      note: Refers to reports from Project 73.) Also singled out for praise-worthy comment were ZIPPER's reports on the Apetlon area in Austria.

c. The overall studies occasionally drawn up by ZIPPER dealing with particular phases of the overall OB picture were described as generally helpful. USFA pointed out that they sometimes did not agree with the findings or conclusions but that they were happy to receive them nevertheless for the stimulating value they represented vis a vis any USFA tendency towards smugness about the worth of their own coverage.

d. The overall judgment of ZIPPER's total effort was summed up as generally good and helpful. The chief criticism was that the reports were very often received by USFA too late to be of maximum value. (      note: This was not aimed at the dissemination lag POB-USFA, but rather to the lag between the date acquired (arrived Nicolaus) and date prepared (date typed at POB)). Despite this however, the overall judgment was that of 'better late than never'.

5. G-2 USEA then requested that, if possible:

a. That some effort be made to speed up the time lag between the date of acquiring information and the date of publication by POB which usually varied anywhere from 4 weeks to 8 weeks.

b. As a possible solution to the delay in a above, that they be given raw reports or photos thereof after they had served ZIPPER's purposes.

c. That they be given either a look at or photo copies of the original documents referred to above (N.B. Project 73 material).

d. That if possible we try to stress certain targets and areas of coverage of greatest interest to them.

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B. Where possible without allowing ZIPPER to assume encouragement for expanding Sov/Zone Austria coverage, we would merely probe the possibility of nudging them in their by-product activities to cover certain targets in preference to others, according to USFA's priority lists. (N.B. It might well be pertinent to point out that ZIPPER's Sov/Zone Austria OB collection, other than Project 73, emanates from Organization U/M. This by-product is allegedly the result of observations by three permanent sources in the Sov/Zone who service U/M operations plus others intended for eventual commitment in Hungary who conduct so-called "test" missions into Sov/Zone Austria as part of their training.) Regarding this possibility however we have no illusions for we feel that our chances of influencing ZIPPER to make shifts in its by-product OB activities without giving the inference of a mandate offer scant hope for success.

8. After the departure of the USFA G-2 analysis representatives, USAGE's contribution to the overall USFA OB picture was discussed. In this discussion SDE learned (1) that those of USAGE's reports which are passed on by GRUESOME to USFA G-2, all bear the code name BISMARCK whether they pertain to military, CI, or political subjects. (2) USAGE's OB reports thus handled which are almost exclusively concerned with Air OB, while neither outstanding nor voluminous, are considered "good, useful and of value". In weighing this judgment, of course, USAGE's comparatively late entry into this field should be given due consideration. It was pointed out by [ ] that in USAGE's case no time lag, processing or lengthy evaluation was involved since his reports were submitted in readable English and were promptly channelled thru GRUESOME to USFA G-2. [ ] also asked that Air Section, USFA furnish not only a more complete assessment of USAGE's coverage but also some guidance for his future work in matters of interest to Air Section.

9. In view of the above it is felt that some reference should be made to MAV-9258, para 2 a where it states, "G-2, USFA, has adequate OB coverage of eastern Austria and, in fact, is beginning to terminate or shift some surplus sources of its own on this target." On the face of it this would seem to be at variance with the facts brought out at the subject conference. However, it is felt that this statement should be considered vis a vis our Vienna Station more than ZIPPER. It is our impression as borne out by statements of the USFA G-2 people that when G-2 USFA claims to have adequate OB coverage of eastern Austria they are including both ZIPPER and USAGE (Bismarck) contributions, such as they are, in their overall picture. Para 2 b same dispatch bears this out when it says it is unnecessary for Vienna Station to expend any effort in this direction, while para 2 c recognizes ZIPPER's collection, and not only does not ask for its elimination but rather suggests the possibility of its shifting to targets not yet adequately covered by either G-2, USFA or ZIPPER.

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10. When towards the end of the conference Col. Dobson brought up his secondary purpose in calling the meeting together, viz other operations in and thru Austria, all ZACABIN representatives successfully avoided getting into any discussion on this matter since they felt such was not on the agenda for the meeting. SDE representatives expressed continued appreciation for G-2 USFA assistance wherever and whenever it had been requested in the past and hoped for continued assistance. The merits of ZIPPER's emergency numbering system were briefly discussed and, while all agreed that it was far from perfect, it was acknowledged as a practical, helpful and generally workable solution to the problems it sought to solve.

With that we adjourned.

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